

## From the Director of Victim Services



On Thursday December 2, 2021, we celebrated our 19th Annual Tennessee Season to Remember event. For the second year in a row, due to the covid-19 pandemic, the event was virtual. The event took place at the First Baptist Church in downtown Nashville and was streamed live at <https://www.youtube.com/firstbaptistchurchnashville>.

TDOC Victim Services collaborated with the Office of the State Attorney General, Board of Parole, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, District Attorneys General Conference, Department of Finance of Administration's Office of Criminal Justice Programs, Department of Safety and

Homeland Security, Tennessee Rehabilitative Initiative (TRICOR), Secretary of State's Office, State Treasurer's Office, and victim advocacy groups You Have the Power and Tennessee Voices for Victims to host the event.

Music for the event was provided by award winning songwriter/vocalist, Jill Colucci. The keynote speaker was Lisa Baker whose husband, Dickson County Sgt. Daniel Baker was murdered while on duty on May 30, 2018 and our emcee was Valencia Wicker with WKRN News 2. Names were read aloud during the special ceremony. Lisa shared comforting words to victims' families during this difficult time of year. She said she now tries to live by three sayings:

- "If God brings me to it then he will lead me through it"
- "The broken pieces of the life now shattered, it is impossible to put them back together, especially on your own. Give them to God and let God mold them into something even more beautiful. "
- "Strive to be the change that you wish to see in the world."

The Tennessee State Capitol and Korean Veterans Bridge were also lit in purple to honor the event and homicide victims.

Check out photos from the event at <https://www.flickr.com/gp/139218170@N08/q535Bv>

Happy Holidays!

*Tamika Dobbins*

## December 2021

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## Victim Services Mission

*To support victims, their families, and the laws that protect their rights, while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.*

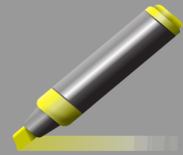
## Victim Services Provides:

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions
- Registration for victim notification
- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender

## Victim Services Activities:

- Community education programs
- Coordination with the Board of Parole, Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's Office to respond to victims' concerns
- Education to TDOC staff to increase awareness of victims' issues
- Collaboration with other victim advocates

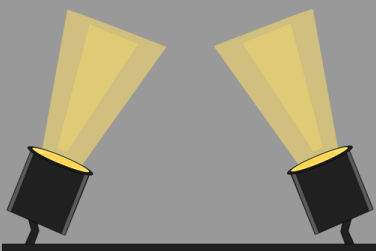
# Victims Services Highlights....Let's meet



**Betsy Fletcher** is the Executive Secretary for Victim Services. Betsy started working in State Government for Environment and Conservation Division of Air Pollution Control in 1992. She left State Government for five years in 1997.

She came back to State Government in 2002 and began working for Tennessee Department of Correction. Betsy started out as Secretary to the Commissioner's staff and promoted to various positions.

Since starting with TDOC, she has always worked directly or indirectly with Victim Services. Betsy has a genuine passion for helping others and providing good customer service. These traits and losing her best friend to a DUI/hit and run driver in 1982 is why she tries to help victims and their families in anyway she can. Her goal is to prevent even one more person from being re-victimized by the confusing avenue of the justice system across this state.



## Victim Services Monthly Statistics

### Central Office Phone Calls

Telephone Calls	November
Phone calls Received/Returned	148
Parties Registered for Notifications (phone/mail/fax/email)	119
Harassment/Threats/No Contact	5
Referrals	31
Release/Parole Inquiry	40
Other	74

### Central Office Mailed Notifications

Notifications Mailed	November
Registrations/Voice	136
Movement	100
Advance Release	426
Final Release *	64
Death	14
Other	2



### Notification Statistics By Delivery Method Report 11-01-2021 to 11-30-2021

Agency	Month	Email	TTY	SMS	Phone	InApp	Letter	Total
TN Department of Correction	November 2021	5,572	4	13,772	2,498	300	n/a	22,146
	<b>AGENCY TO-TALS</b>	5,572	4	13,772	2,498	300	n/a	22,146
	<b>OVERALL TOTALS</b>	5,572	4	13,772	2,498	300	n/a	22,146

### New Registration Statistics By Registrant Classification 11-01-2021 to 11-30-2021

		Anonymous	Concerned citizen	Family member of offender	Family member of victim	Law enforcement	Not Reported	Other	Victim	Victim coordinator/advocate	Total
TN Department of Correction	November 2021	77	86	333	237	501	4,584	233	37	4	6,092
	<b>AGENCY TO-TALS</b>	77	86	333	237	501	4,584	233	37	4	6,092
	<b>OVERALL TOTALS</b>	77	86	333	237	501	4,584	233	37	4	6,092



## Victim Connect Resource Center

The VictimConnect Resource Center is a referral helpline where crime victims can learn about their rights and options confidentially and compassionately. VictimConnect Resource Center (VCRC) is a weekday phone, chat, and text-based referral helpline operated by the National Center for Victims of Crime. Services are available for all victims of crime in the United States and its territories. Visitors to the hotline receive strength-based and trauma-informed services and referrals in over 200 languages.

The Victim Assistance Specialists receive extensive training and mentoring to provide emotional support, information, and referrals that empower visitors as they navigate the physical, emotional, legal, and financial consequences of crime. Referrals are tailored to individual needs and can be made to local, state, and national organizations. In FY2021, VictimConnect supported over 10,000 survivors and victims of crime.

Anyone seeking support can visit <https://victimconnect.org/>, chat, call or text 855-4-VICTIM (855-484-2846). VictimConnect supports visitors of all crime types.

### Coping with the Holidays

Grieving during the holidays is difficult. Especially the first holiday cycle after the passing of a loved one. Whatever your age, whatever the cause of death, holidays lived in the absence of a loved one can be a very difficult time. Customary routines are ended, never to be repeated in quite the same way. Easy-going laughter, once flowing so naturally, may become awkward or even altogether missing. Gift-giving, once so filled with fun, may seem somehow empty and sad. Familiar songs, once so comforting, may catch in your throat or bring tears to your eyes.

The best way to approach a holiday is to find ways to make it personally meaningful while acknowledging events, feelings, and circumstances. Thinking beforehand about what may be helpful to make the holidays easier and better and what might make them harder, can be beneficial. Here are a few tips that may help survivors and their support system.

- Choose to celebrate or not.
- Spend time with those who are helpful, supportive, understanding, patient, and caring.

Consider starting a new tradition or activity that is comfortable and enjoyable. Celebrate in ways that are meaningful and helpful. Maintain existing family traditions only where desired.



# Announcements



**RIGHTS  
ACCESS  
EQUITY**  
*for all victims*

Help crime survivors  
find their justice.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week | April 24–30, 2022

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
IS HAPPENING IN THE  
UNITED STATES.**

**WEAR BLUE ON  
JANUARY 11<sup>th</sup> TO  
RAISE AWARENESS**



January 11  
#WearBlueDay

@DHSBlueCampaign

WHAT YOU CAN DO IF YOU ARE A  
**VICTIM OF CRIME**

**WHAT VICTIMS CAN DO IF THEY'RE A**

Tennessee Domestic Violence Hotline - 800-356-6767

National Domestic Violence Hotline - 800.799.SAFE

Battered Women's Justice Project - 800.903.0111

Mothers Against Drunk Driving - 877.MADD.HELP

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - 800.843.5678

Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline—1-855-558-6484

National Human Trafficking Hotline - 888.373.7888

Sexual Assault Center 24 Hour Crisis & Support: 1-866-811-RISE (7473)

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With #TeamTDOC!**

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